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Attorney Docket No. 27585-016  
(Formerly Attorney Docket No. 24564B)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Flautt et al.  
Serial No.: 10/055,154  
Filing Date: October 26, 2001  
For: Superabsorbent Water-Resistant Coatings for Fiber-Reinforced Articles

Examiner: Dr. Kelechi Chidi Egwim  
Art Unit: 1713

Mail Stop: RESPONSE (FEE)  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED SEPTEMBER 26, 2003

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action mailed September 26, 2003, Applicants provide this response to the issues raised therein.

Introductory Comments

The Examiner issued the Office Action mailed September 26, 2003 in response to the request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 filed on July 28, 2003 in the application identified above. Applicants submitted the request for continued examination in response to the final rejection of the claims in the Examiner's final Office Action mailed March 28, 2003. However, the Examiner found Applicants' amendment, submitted to fulfill the submission requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114, to be non-responsive because the amendment presented claims directed to a non-elected invention. The Examiner found that the amendment appeared to be a *bona fide* attempt to reply to the final Action and issued an